






The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: An Evolving Resource

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is a powerful resource in the combined effort by Federal, State, and local government, as well as private industry and homeowners, to end the cycle of repetitive disaster damage.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act was passed on November 23, 1988, amending Public Law 93-288, the Disaster Relief Act of 1974. The Stafford Act included Section 404, which established the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. In 1993, the Hazard Mitigation and Relocation Act amended Section 404 to increase the amount of HMGP funds available and the cost-share to 75 percent Federal. This amendment also encouraged the use of property acquisition and other non-structural flood mitigation measures.

One Tool in the State's Ongoing Mitigation Program

In an effort to streamline HMGP delivery, FEMA encourages States to develop their mitigation programs before disaster strikes. States are adopting a more active HMGP management role. Increased capabilities may include:

-  Conducting comprehensive all-hazard mitigation planning prior to disaster events;
-  Providing applicants technical assistance on sound mitigation techniques and hazard mitigation policy and procedures;
-  Coordinating mitigation programs through interagency teams or councils.
-  Conducting benefit-cost analyses; and
-  Preparing National Environmental Policy Act reviews for FEMA approval.

States that integrate the HMGP with their frequently updated State Administrative and Hazard Mitigation Plans will create cohesive and effective approaches to loss reduction. This type of coordinated approach minimizes the distinction between "pre-disaster" and "post-disaster" time periods, and instead produces an ongoing mitigation effort.

Intent

Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects.

A key purpose of the HMGP is to ensure that the opportunity to take critical mitigation measures to protect life and property from future disasters is not lost during the recovery and reconstruction process following a disaster.

Program grant funds available under Section 404 of the Stafford Act provide States with the incentive and capability to implement mitigation measures that previously may have been infeasible.

Section 1: Introduction to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program




Goals

The goals of the HMGP are twofold:

Three Types of Eligible Applicants

The State is responsible for soliciting applications from eligible applicants, assisting in the preparation and prioritization of those applications, and managing the approved projects. All interested applicants, with the exception of Native American tribes, must apply to the State.

The following types of entities are eligible to apply to the State for HMGP funding:

-  State and local governments;
-  Private non-profit organizations or institutions; and
-  Native American tribes and Alaskan Native villages.



State and Local Governments

The State Hazard Mitigation Officer or Mitigation Team should contact affected local governments and pertinent State agencies to solicit potential applications. Agencies involved in natural resources, geologic hazards, floodplain management, parks and recreation, infrastructure regulation or construction, and community development may have projects that help support hazard mitigation objectives.

Private Non-Profit Organizations or Institutions

Private non-profit organizations or institutions that own or operate a private non-profit facility as defined in 44 CFR 206.221(e) are eligible.

Each non-profit applicant must provide either:

-  An effective ruling letter from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service granting tax exemption under Section 501(c), (d), or (e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended; or
-  State certification, under State law, of non-profit status.

FEMA encourages local governments to partner with non-profit conservation and land trust organizations for open-space property acquisition projects.



Native American Tribes or Alaskan Native Villages

Tribes or authorized tribal organizations and Alaskan Native villages or organizations are eligible to apply for the HMGP.

Many States act as grantee on behalf of Native American tribes, providing technical assistance and administrative coordination. However, if the tribe prefers, it may apply directly to FEMA.

Alaskan Native corporations with ownership vested in private individuals are not eligible to apply.